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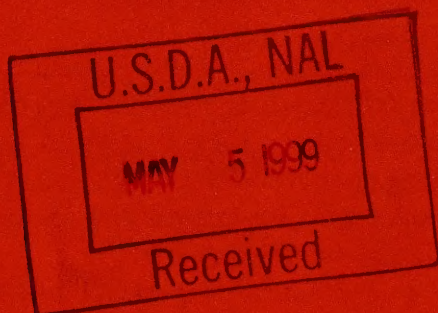


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Alternative Farming Systems

**Information
Center**



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National
Agricultural
Library

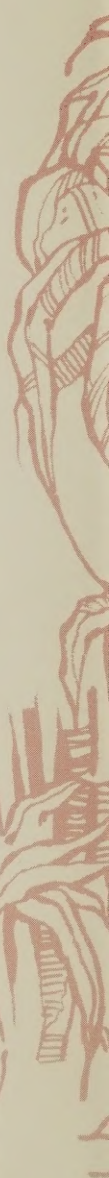



s is AFSIC:

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center
part of the National Agricultural Library
which is located in Beltsville, MD. The Center
is supported in part by the Low Input/Sustainable
Agriculture (LISA) program of the Department of
Agriculture, established by Congress to encourage
research, education, and information delivery about
farming systems that preserve the natural resource
base while maintaining economic viability. The Center
is a resource point for those interested in obtaining
information from either the scientific or popular
literature on all types of alternative
farming practices.

AFSIC serves many types of users. It can help:
• thinking of converting from chemical-
intensive crop production to alternate modes of
insect and weed control or plant fertilization.

- An agricultural researcher looking for reports on
crop yield comparisons in various legume-based
rotations.
- An extension agent who needs to keep abreast of
the latest experience in reduced tillage methods, or
potential new crops.
- A new farmer who wants to try a purely organic
method on the homestead or to design a market-
oriented diversified operation.
- A group or organization concerned about the
ecological effects of herbicide and fertilizer runoff
into waterways and seepage into groundwater
from both rural and urban applications.



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- A private citizen wishing to learn about organically produced foods or the best way to build a compost pile for enriching the garden soil.
 - Someone wanting to know about the LISA program.

The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center can help these and many other users interested in learning more about low input or sustainable or alternative agricultural practices.

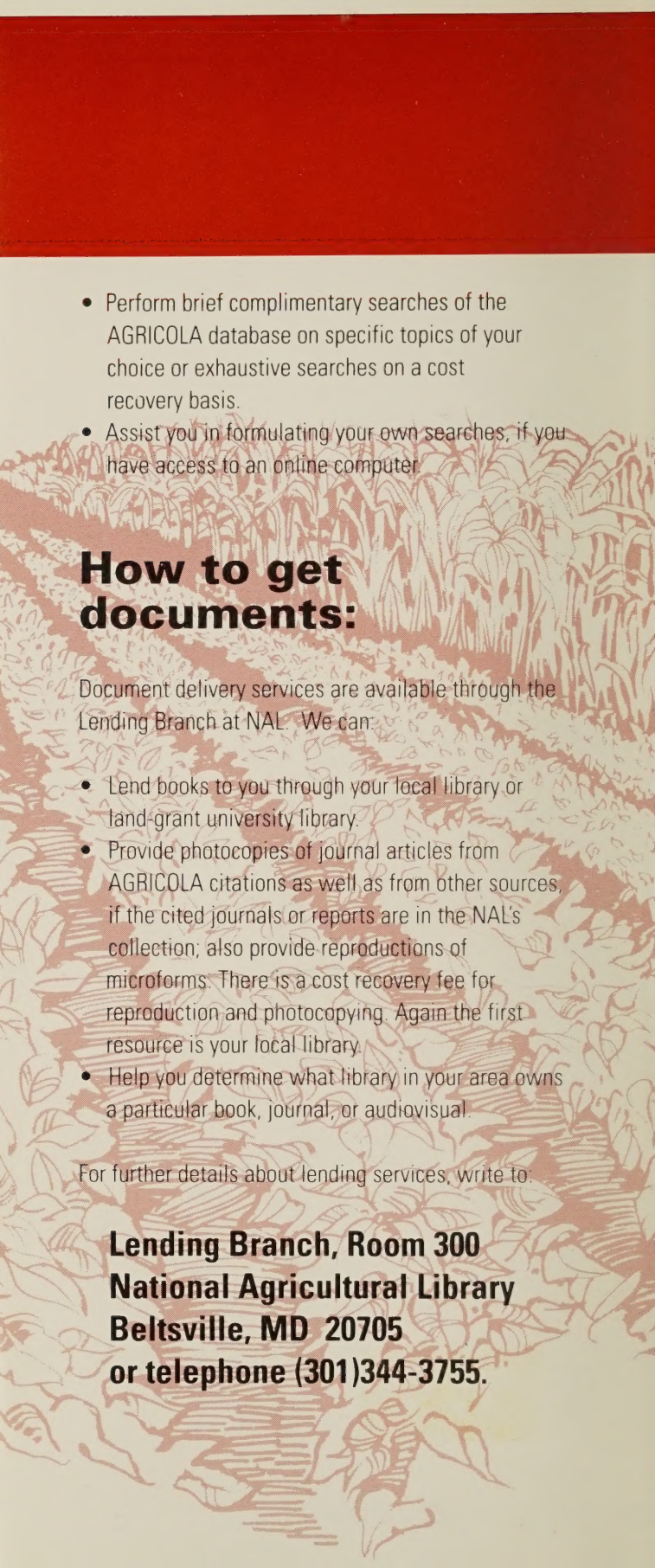
Services we can offer you:

You may use the center directly, or you may write or telephone.

You will often meet us at conferences where we exhibit our information products and let users known about our services.

The information Center staff can help you to find answers to specific questions or begin a more extensive research program. The staff will:

- Assist you in accessing NAL's extensive collections on a broad range of agricultural subjects.
- Refer you to organizations or experts in the field who can provide additional information.
- Identify current research conducted by USDA research agencies.
- Furnish you with bibliographies on such topics as biological control of pests, water-conserving irrigation, or green manures and cover crops.

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- Perform brief complimentary searches of the AGRICOLA database on specific topics of your choice or exhaustive searches on a cost recovery basis.
 - Assist you in formulating your own searches, if you have access to an online computer.

How to get documents:

Document delivery services are available through the Lending Branch at NAL. We can:

- Lend books to you through your local library or land-grant university library.
- Provide photocopies of journal articles from AGRICOLA citations as well as from other sources, if the cited journals or reports are in the NAL's collection; also provide reproductions of microforms. There is a cost recovery fee for reproduction and photocopying. Again the first resource is your local library.
- Help you determine what library in your area owns a particular book, journal, or audiovisual.

For further details about lending services, write to:

**Lending Branch, Room 300
National Agricultural Library
Beltsville, MD 20705
or telephone (301)344-3755.**

Your help can expand Alternative Farming Systems Information Center services

The Center staff work to ensure that NAL acquires books, periodicals, reports, and other material related to alternative, low input, or sustainable agriculture to enrich its already extensive resources. You can help us to serve you and others better by:

- Contributing publications and reports of your latest projects or research.
- Recommending books or serials that should be added to the collection or that might be donated.
- Suggesting names of organizations with whom we might cooperate or who might offer us grants or funds for special projects.
- Telling us about experts in the field of alternative farming systems.
- Letting us know whether our services have met your needs or where we need to improve.

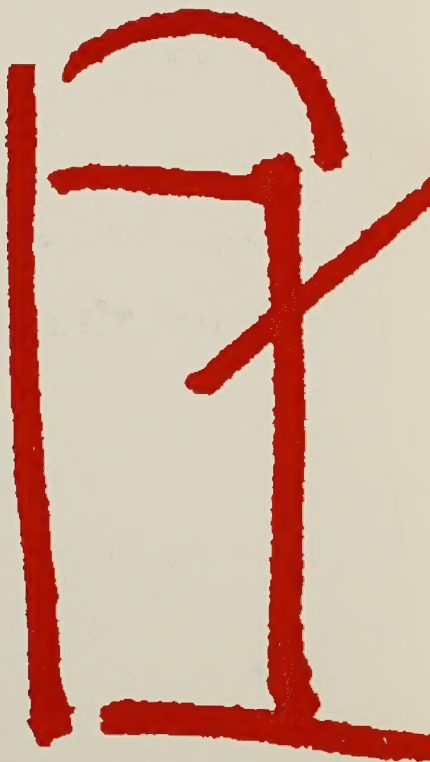
About the NAL

It is:

- One of the three national libraries in the United States.
- The foremost agricultural library in the world, with approximately 2 million volumes and subscriptions to 26,000 periodicals from all over the world.



- The resource for books, journals, maps, microforms, films, videocassettes, filmstrips, slides, microcomputer software, and other media acquired through purchase, gifts, and exchange.
- The coordinator and primary resource for a national network of State land-grant university libraries, USDA field libraries, and other agricultural libraries working together to deliver information to those with an interest in agriculture and related topics.
- The producer of the computerized AGRICOLA database, which is an index to more than 2.6 million books and articles relating to all aspects of agriculture. The database is accessible through two nationwide information retrieval systems, DIALOG and BRS. AGRICOLA is also available on CD-ROM from SilverPlatter or OCLC.

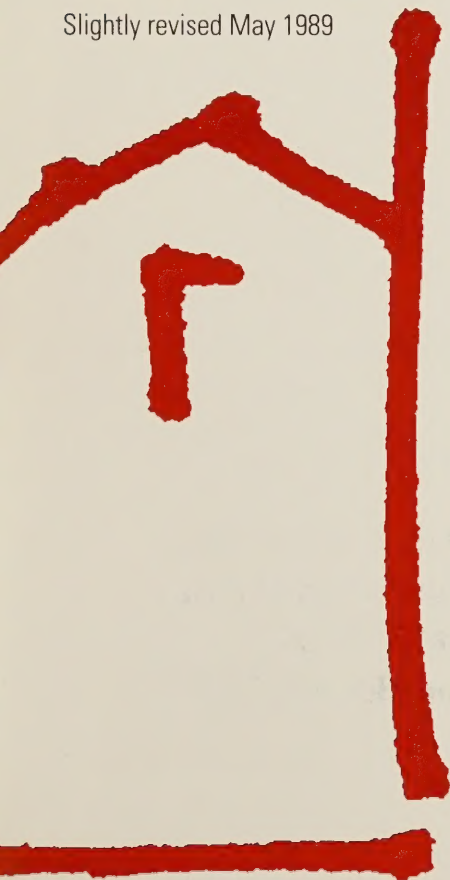


For more information about the Alternative Farming
Systems Information Center, write or telephone:

**Alternative Farming Systems
Information Center
National Agricultural Library,
Room 304
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 344-3704**

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* NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY



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